Fall in public investment in irrigation

1776. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public investment in irrigation has fallen significantly over successive five year plans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to address this problem in the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) In absolute terms there has been a consistent increase in the Plan-wise financial outlays in the irrigation sector over different plan periods. However percentage share of investment in the irrigation sector in relation to the total investment over different plan periods has consistently declined from 23% in the First Plan to about 6% in the Ninth Plan. Plan-wise financial expenditure in irrigation sector as compared with the total for all sectors together are given at Statement. (*See* below)

(c) As per the Approach Paper to the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002—2007) adopted by Government of India, fall in Public investment in irrigation sector over successive plan periods is largely due to the resource constraints with the Governments. The Approach Paper, therefore, envisages that the Tenth Plan must aim at a major revival of public investment in irrigation infrastructure and water management. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, according to the Approach Paper, is an important instrument for augmenting financial resources of State Governments to support the ongoing irrigation schemes. The Central Government has released Rs. 7876.74 crore to the State Governments under the scheme upto the end of February, 2002 and a budget provision of Rs. 2800 crore has been earmarked for the financial year 2002-03 against a provision of Rs. 2000 crore in the year 2001-02. It has also been decided to provide financial assistance to identified major/medium projects

in an advanced stage of construction, which can be completed in one year (2 working seasons), under the Fast Track Programme with 100% loan assistance. Priority will be given to pre-Fifth Plan and Fifth Plan projects for inclusion in the Fast Track Programme.

Statement

**Plan-wise financial investment on irrigation*

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Plan	Expenditure	Total Plan Expenditure in All Sectors	% of expenditure or irrigation to total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	First Plan (1951-56)	441.8	1960	23
2.	Second Plan (1956-61)	522.2	4672	11
3.	Third Plan (1961-66)	902.1	8577	11
4.	Annual Plan (1966-69)	751.1	6625	11
5.	Fourth Plan (1969-74)	1748.5	15779	11
6.	Fifth Plan (1974-78)	3291.3	28653	12
7.	Annual Plan (1978-80)	2790.1	22950	12
8.	Sixth Plan (1980-85)	10091.2	109292	9

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Seventh Plan (1985-90)	15686.7	218730	7
10.	Annual Plan (1990-91)	3732.6	58369	6
11.	Eighth Plan (1992-97) Outlay	30901.9	434100	7
12.	Ninth Plan (1997-02) Outlay	55231.26	875000	6

*This includes both the Central and State Plans.

Increase in irrigation potential

1777. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite large investments in irrigation only about 40 per cent of agricultural area is irrigated;

(b) if so, the reasons for this state of affairs;

(c) in what manner Government propose to generate irrigation potential to cover additional non-irrigated land; and

(d) what has been the role of major and medium irrigation projects in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) Government of India has assessed the ultimate irrigation potential in the country as 139.9 million hectare (Mha.). The responsibility of investigation, planning, execution and maintenance of all types of irrigation projects/works primarily rests with the State Governments since irrigation is a State subject. Also, these irrigation projects/works are funded by the State Governments from their plan